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THE TRUE EXACT COPY OF THE PASTORAL LETTER OF THE Bishop of *Angiers* in *France*.

CONCERNING

A late *Miracle* done in the Pariſh called in French, *Des Ulmes de St. Florent.* near to the Town of *Saumur*, on the ſecond day of *June*, 1668. at what time thoſe of the reformed Church (as they call themſelves) held their Synod in the ſaid Town of *Saumur*.

BIBLIOTHECA LAMBETHANA

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The Paſtoral Letter of my Lord Biſhop of Angiers, *touching a Miracle vvrought in the Holy Sacrament, in the Parish of* Ulmes *of St.* Florence *near the Tovvn of* Saumur.

IT hath pleaſed God, from time to time to iſſue forth, the viſible proofs of his omnipotency, in working Miracles by the adorable Sacrament of the Body and Bloud of his Son, our Lord Jeſus Chriſt, both to awaken the Faith of his Faithfull, and to renew in them the reverence due to his infinite Majeſty; even when their Love to Creatures, and habituall Propenſion unto Sin, ſeems to bury them in a ſad Oblivion of their Creatour and Principles of Chriſtianity. This he do's not only to draw them from their Lethargy, and coldneſſe; wherewith they often approach to the moſt dreadfull of our myſteries, but alſo to confound the errour of *Heretiques*, who by a blindneſſe (of which his mercy ſeems willing to cure them) they deny the Reality of the Body and Bloud of Jeſus Chriſt in the Holy *Euchariſt*. This truth is evident in the Miracle lately hapned in the Pariſh of *Ulmes* of St. *Florence*, near to the Town of *Saumur*; The faithfull relation whereof being as followeth:

The Paſtor of this Pariſh, having informed us, that on *Saturday* within the Octave of the Bleſſed Sacrament, a miraculous Apparition was made in his Church, wherein our Lord Jeſus Chriſt

visibly manifested himself in the Holy *Hoast*: Immediately we commissioned the Pastour of the Town of *Saumur* to repair to the said Parish, and there take an exact information of the thing; which being very prudently and exactly performed, and the Depositions of the Pastor, Clerk, and several Parishoners dispatched unto us; We judged it fit to become our selves an inquisitour after the truth of this Miracle, and to receive it from the Mouthes of such as were Eye-witnesses of the thing. Wherefore upon the twentieth instant, we transported our selves unto the place with our Apparitour, and having there celebrated the Masse of the Holy Ghost, that we might obtain all necessary illuminations, for the discovery of so important a Truth, we visited the same *Hoast*, which was yet reserved within the *Remonstrance* where the Apparition was made: And after we had most strictly examined, and found that it could not be caused by any Artifice, by reflection of light, nor by the ordinary wayes of Nature; We examined apart the Pastor, his Vicar, those Parishioners who had been neerest to the Altar, and two Inhabitants of the Town of *Saumur*, who hapned to be there, and by their Depositons we found, that on the said second day of this Moneth, which was the *Saturday* within the Octave of the Blessed Sacrament, in time of the *Salve*, whilst the Pastor sung those words, *Verbum Caro*, *Panem verum*, there appeared in the *Remonstrance*, instead of the *Hoast*, the form of a Man, whose hair light brown fell upon his Shoulders, his face radiant, his hands crossed one upon the other, having the right upon the left, his body clad with a white Garment like to an *Albe*. And that this Apparition continued for the space of a quarter of an hour, as well upon the Tabernacle, where the said Blessed Sacrament was exposed, as upon the Altar, after the Pastor had taken it down, to give unto the People a more full view of it. In sequel of this, a little cloud did appear which involved him on all sides, and being dispersed, immediately, the holy *Hoast* was seen in its ordinary Figure, as before this Miracle. This is in Substance what the Depositions import; in which all the Witnesses agree, and speak the same

ſame thing; inſomuch that there is cauſe to believe, the Saviour of the World hath viſibly appeared in this Pariſh, one of the Pooreſt in our Dioceſs.

From this Miracle, my dear Children, you may conceive with fear and trembling, what it is you receive in the holy Communion, and with what purity and preparation, you ought to approach unto it. Nay at the ſame time, it oblieges you to the diſcharge of infinite acknowledgements, and thankſgivings, with all the zeal and fervour you are capable of, unto our Lord Jeſus Chriſt; that inſtead of expreſſing his anger againſt ſo many bad Chriſtians, who eat his body unworthily, he comes with ſo much goodneſs to make himſelf viſible unto your Brethren, who by our voice bear witneſs of the thing unto you, that by an exceſs of his mercy, we might be convinced, 'tis he who dwells upon our Altars, there to receive our adorations; 'tis he, that is there daily Sacrificed, for the expiation of our offences. Laſtly, that 'tis he whom we really and effectively receive at the Table: to the end you might be wary not to incenſe him by your indevotion, irreverence and ſacrilegious Communion. And that the enemies of our ſacred myſteries may come to renounce their Hereſie, we conjure them to conſider that this glorious miracle happened at the time, when their Synod was aſſembled, and in a place, but two leagues from thence, ſo that it ſeems God calls them with a Loud voice, to the Common, and unqueſtioned belief of the Church, touching the reality of the bleſſed Sacrament. Let them no more then diſhonour by their blaſphemyes the moſt adorable *Euchariſt*, but learn from this wonderfull Apparition, to reverence the divinity ſhut up within this dreadfull *Hoaſt* of our Altars, ſince they cannot pretend hereafter, the thrice Auguſt Sacrament of the Altar to be a figure or ſimple ſigne, when the Majeſty of Jeſus Chriſt hath evidenced by a viſible forme, that he is inviſibly contained under the veyle of holy Species.

Now,

Now to honor the memory of ſo great a miracle, and preſerve it to poſterity, we ordain that the ſame *Hoaſt*, where this Apparition was made, ſhall be preciouſly kept in the ſaid Church of *Vlmes* of St. *Florence*, in a ſecure repoſitory near to the great Altar, on the Goſpel ſide fitly adorned, and expreſly made for that purpoſe, where every year, on the *Saturday* within the Octave of the Bleſſed Scrament, ſhall be ſolemnly celebrated the Anniverſary of this Apparition, forbidding the Paſtor to expoſe extraordinarily this Holy *Hoaſt*, without our ſpecial permiſſion, nor to publiſh any extraordinary prayers or devotions, nor to erect any ſocieties, confraternities

or indulgencies without our expreſs approbation. Given at *Angiers* this Twenty Fifth of *June* 1668.

ſigned

Henry Bishop
of
Angiers.